

The regular meeting of the Hammond Common Council of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on May 11, 2026 in the Hammond City Council Chambers and was available to be viewed at gohammond on Facebook, gohammond.tv live and per Zoom.

Council President Janet Venecz presided.

City Clerk Robert J. Golec facilitated.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all.
Moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz

ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT PER ZOOM: Tyler

ABSENT: None

TOTAL: 9

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor McDermott- Hi, Madam President, nice to see you all. I think the last time I spoke to you guys, I brought up an issue, that has been resolved since the last time we talked. It was an issue with 177th Street and the Town of Highland. At the time, I was telling you that we had INDOT working on the bridge over there, which connects Highland to Hammond, and Highland's side of the bridge was \$800k to repair it and the Town of Highland informed the City of Hammond that they did not want to repair it and they were planning on closing it down and shifting their local traffic over to Liable Road. That was no good for us. We didn't like that. I didn't like that. I brought it up at NIRPC. I'm happy to report that we have a good contact in the Town of Highland with Councilman Scheeringa who is also a Chief in the Hammond Fire Department. Councilman Sheeringa over in the Town of Highland, brought over Councilman Georgeoff and we had a meeting, also a former colleague of all of ours, Dan Repay over at the Little Calumet River Basin Authority decided to jump in because this concerns his area as well. Dean, our City Engineer got favorable pricing, which is nice, meaning we're a bigger city, we get better pricing than the Town of Highland does. We do a lot more work than the Town of Highland, because of that, we get better pricing and we took their \$800k proposal and it's more like \$350k, which is nice. Then the Town of Highland, Dan Repay over at the Little Calumet Basin Authority, and the City of Hammond agreed to split it 3 ways. Now the good news is, INDOT is finishing their work on the bridge soon, like within the next day or so, if not maybe even today it's finished. The Town of Highland side is still shut down and pock marked, and it looks like the moon, the good news is, Dean has already lined up to mill that side of the bridge on Thursday of this week, so 3 days from now, they're going to grind it all down, and on Friday, they're going to pave it. All the inter local agreements are being taken care of, so by next Monday, a week from today, the entire thing should be open and brand new. I know it's a long winded answer, but it's done. I want to thank the Town of Highland, Councilman Georgeoff, Councilman Scheeringa, I want to thank Dean Button, the City Engineer, Dan Repay at the Little Calumet River Basin Authority, and thank you all for staying on me about that so we got it resolved. We suffered a lot of damage because all the semis and everything were going in this side that they're not supposed to go in and they're just beating our infrastructure up, so there's going to be damages that we're going to have to cover, but the good news is, there's a lot of businesses back there that have a way in and a way out now. I brought that up last meeting and I wanted to follow up with it. I don't know if you have

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.-any questions about that.

Councilman Kalwinski- Good work, thank you.

Mayor McDermott- Thanks, Councilman.

Councilman Kalwinski- So, Hammond's portion is between \$115-120k?

Mayor McDermott- Yeah, right around there, and it's going to come from CIB, so they have the money available. Thanks.

Councilman Woerpel- I just want to thank you and everybody involved, because being in the 5th District, a lot of them business were concerned about having to go all the way to Kennedy Avenue, as far as the semis and tearing up the infrastructure there.

Mayor McDermott- We suffered some damage during the period of time it was shut down. Good job for the Town of Highland for showing us how important it was to work together. They did a good job of showing us how important it was for us to work together. We worked together. I want to thank the 2 Councilmen again, Dan Repay stepping in to help fill the cracks in, so to speak. It's a really good project, it turned out, so weather permitting, a week from now, we should be driving on brand new pavement over there with a brand new bridge, so that's good news. Now I'll go through my schedule for the last couple weeks. It's been 2 weeks since we met. I met with the Hammond Fire Department Local 556 Executive team in regards to a submission they made to an RFP for a potential Downtown Hammond location. I want to talk to Councilman Salinas about that as well. It's an interesting development. I want to thank Mike Cole and the Hammond Firefighters for putting in a great proposal. I did a radio interview with WBEZ Public Radio in Chicago in regards to the potential Bears move to Northwest Indiana. This is interesting, I attended a reception along with Judge Marissa at Governor Mike Braun's Mansion in Indianapolis. I haven't been to his mansion in 20 years, to the Governor's Mansion. If you do your math, that was Joe Kernan's last day in office, so haven't been there in 20 years. It looks a lot nicer now. I want to thank Governor Braun for inviting us. There was a lot of Mayor's there. Mayor Josh from Hobart was there, another local Mayor, but we talked for like 25 minutes about the Bears, just the Governor, me and Marissa and I left there very optimistic. He is bouncing around. He wants this thing done. So anyway, that was a nice time, it was good. I met with a potential developer about a through port site in Hessville. I talked to Councilman Rakos about it a little bit earlier. I'm not sure where this is going, but it's interesting. It's a development that's been vacant my entire term. Obviously it's about a half mile from homes in Hessville, so we're obviously watching that situation closely. I had a zoom interview with WGN News regarding the potential for the Bear's to move to Northwest Indiana. I met with Decennial Group's Managing Partner's over the Data Center Development Agreement we have pending before us. I reminded them that we have a June 30th deadline. I'm not sure what to feel about it. I have a feeling we're going to be waiting until June 30th to find out what's going on, but hopefully it moves quicker than that, but we all know we have a deadline and we're sticking to the deadline. If there's any attempt to extend the deadline, I think there should be financial penalties involved. Quite frankly, it's time to do it, or get off the pot kind of thing. I attended the Hammond Water Company's grand opening of their new corporate offices in Downtown Hammond. Great office, great location, everyone's real happy. The Water Department loves the building. It's big enough to handle all the staff. It's got a drive through,

*Prepared by
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Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- so if you want to pay your water bills, you have to go to Downtown Hammond now. You can see it right there off of Rimbach Street. I was interviewed via Zoom, by the Chicago Tribune's Editorial Board, over the potential for the Bear's to choose Hammond as their next location. I attended Hermit's Little League opening day, and threw out the first pitch. It was a really nice day, Hermit's is great. It was a strike, for what it matters. I hosted the Friendly Son's of Erin's Board of Directors Annual Dinner at the Emerald Green. This is really cool because these guys are from all over the region, Lake, Porter, and Laporte County, they come once a year to the Emerald Green. It was so good. I want to remind everyone out there that the Emerald Green Restaurant was top notch that night, man. It's a jewel that we have in Hammond. I think it was great. I was really proud to be Hammond's Mayor with all those people from all over the region and eating good food in a beautiful building, in Robertsdale. I attended the National Day of Prayer at the Hammond Sportsplex, great turnout, amazing food served by the students of the Area Career Center. We saved a lot of money too, it was nice, saved a lot of money, had food served to us by the Area Career Center Students. They were super happy to do it, and it was delicious.

Council President Venecz- It was delicious.

Mayor McDermott- It was. I met with the Chiefs and Captains of the Hammond Police Department for our regular monthly meeting. I met with the leadership of the Hammond Fire Department in regards to a promotion to Battalion Chief that I'm going to announce right now. We haven't done this publicly yet, but after conducting multiple interviews I chose Tommy Markovich to become Hammond's newest Battalion Chief. Tom's from a big Robertsdale family. He's a great Hammond Firefighter. He's super happy. He should already be Battalion Chief by now, so congratulations to Tommy. I visited Challenger Learning Center during one of their classes to observe how they interact with students on field trips. This particular class happened to be the class of my nephew from Crown Point. Timothy Ball Elementary School did 2 days in a row at Challenger Learning Center. It was nice to see. I want to make a few announcements in the Police Department. We've done multiple interviews for various positions across Hammond Police Department. I'm happy to announce the following promotions. Jeff Long, we all know was promoted from Assistant Chief of Police to becoming Hammond's Police Chief. That happened January 1st. Chris Gootee was promoted from the Captain of Detectives to become Hammond's next Assistant Chief of Police. I believe I already announced to you all also. Now, to fill in the spots that they vacated, Chief Gootee left the Captain of Detectives spot, and the Captain of Detectives is going to be filled by Sargent Jason Schafbuch, he's a Sargent in the Detective Bureau currently and he's going to become the newest Captain of Detectives. He's a Hammond resident and a great detective. Congratulations, to Captain Schafbuch. We also promoted from Sargent in the Detective Bureau, James Onohan, a Hammond resident, a Sargent in the Detective Bureau, promoted him to becoming a Lieutenant in the Detective Bureau. Congratulations to Lieutenant Onohan. We promoted Jeff Miller from Sargent in the Detective Bureau to becoming a Lieutenant in the Detective Bureau. Congratulations to Lieutenant Miller. We promoted Shawn Ford from Sargent in the Detective Bureau to becoming a Lieutenant in the Detective Bureau. Congratulations to Lieutenant Ford. We promoted Scott Denny from Master Sargent in Patrol to becoming a Shift Lieutenant in Patrol. Congratulations to Lieutenant Denny. We promoted Walter Peterson from Sargent in the Detective Bureau to becoming Shift Lieutenant in Patrol. Congratulations to Lieutenant Peterson. We promoted Sargent Ebby Gonzalez from a Sargent in Community Affairs and becoming a Lieutenant in Community Affairs. Congratulations to Ebby Last but not least, this is something that I think is amazing. We transferred Lieutenant Kelly Mickey from Community Affairs. Everybody is like, what, to the Detective Bureau to take on a role of

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott cont.- Domestic Violence Advocate. It's a position we haven't filled yet. We haven't had this in a long time. Kelly Mickey who everybody knows is a great Lieutenant who is very apathetic and very personable. Obviously in situations like this where you have a victim, they maybe not want to talk to a male officer. Having an officer like Kelly in that role will provide invaluable resources for us. Congratulations to all of the promotions. I know you guys are considering 2 resolutions today, oh I forgot one. Thank you, also, going from Master Sargent in Patrol, Rich Ray is promoted to Captain of Patrol, which is a great promotion. I'm happy for Rich. He's right there in the back, so Congratulations to Captain Ray. I'm not sure if he's still going to be able to do your Council Meetings, so you might miss him, but you know, he's a Captain of Patrol. That's a, Captain of Patrol is like riding a horse, you get tired after awhile, sometimes you have to get off the horse. I know Rob Bunner was the Captain of Patrol. We're putting Rob Bunner in as the Captain of Training as well, so Rob's not losing his Captain seat, he's getting a break. He's been Captain of Patrol for awhile now. Congratulations to Rich and everybody else that made promotions. 26R-10, the resolution before you guys, coming from Midwest Prairie Builders, is to build a new Dairy Bell and Laundromat at 1719-1733 Indianapolis Blvd in Robertsdale. This is a great project, and I'm super happy to support. We've proposed a traditional 10 year tax abatement as the incentive in that. I think Dairy Bell in that part of the City, you're going to have lines down the street for people wanting to get into that, I think it's a great development, also it's another North Hammond/Robertsdale development. 26R-11, a resolution of the common council proving a declaratory resolution related to the creation of an economic revitalization area, that's the new RV storage lot on 3518 Sheffield Avenue. We stalled out a little bit on this project, but it's back up and moving again. It's a great project. I hope you guys support both of them. Sorry about the long report, I'm available for any questions you have.

Councilman Kalwinski- The RV place will also be a traditional 10 year tax abatement?

Mayor McDermott- Thank you, yes, thanks for asking. I should have dug that up. I didn't put it in my notes. Traditional, Councilman, it seemed like we were getting a lot of developers that were asking us for 100 percent 10 year tax abatements. We approved one for the crane company and I think internally, we're pretty much done doing that. I think that's the last one, outside of an extraordinary development, ok, one that we really have to fight for. If they don't want to take a traditional 10 year tax abatement, I don't want to put it forward anymore. The last one you're going to see unless it's extraordinary circumstances, EOCOM the Crane Company on Calumet. Thanks for asking.

Councilman Kalwinski- I wondered if the City had heard anything new from the EPA regarding the federated metals and the potential clean up coming. Has there been any dialogue with them?

Mayor McDermott- I know there was a meeting in Whiting. I didn't attend.

Councilman Kalwinski- I was there.

Mayor McDermott- You were? I haven't heard anything since that, Councilman.

Councilman Kalwinski- I haven't heard anything either, I just wondered if the City got anymore information.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS Cont.

Mayor McDermott- No, no news is good news, but I haven't heard anything though. Any other questions? Sorry for the long report. Have a nice meeting. Good to see you all.

Councilman Tyler is now present in the Council Chambers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Salinas, supported by Councilman Emerson, moved to approve the minutes of April 27, 2026 and place on file. AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Councilman Rakos, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved to approve the claims from April 23, 2026 through May 6, 2026. Claim #3369 through claim #3722, inclusive. In the amount of \$7,755,745.75.

ROLL CALL VOTE (claims)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

CLAIMS APPROVED

Council President Venecz- Clerk Golec, can you please make note that, Councilman Tyler is now in the chambers?

City Clerk Golec- So noted.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Venecz- On May 20th at 1 p.m., the police department and F.O.P. 51 will have a Fallen Officer Memorial Service at the Hammond Police Department. In case of rain, we will be moving to the Civic Center. That's always a very moving ceremony and I urge everyone to attend if they can. May 13th, is Mayor's Night Out. That's in the 3rd District. It will be at the Hammond Sportsplex beginning at 6:30 p.m. Also, there is a fundraiser, Cops on the Rooftop. This is a fundraiser for the Special Olympics. There will be 2 officers on each rooftop at the following Dunkin Donuts and 2 officers in each drive thru to collect donations and hand out coupons. The Dunkin Donuts at 7410 Kennedy, 7334 Indianapolis Blvd., and I happen to know that the newly promoted Lieutenant Ebby Gonzalez will be up on the roof there, and 7935 Indianapolis Blvd. That will be from 7-9 a.m. on Friday May 15th. Please drive though, get a cup of coffee and a donut, and drop off some money in their bucket.

Councilman Woerpel- So how do you get the money up to the rooftop?

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMUNICATIONS Cont.

Council President Venecz- They have somebody at the drive-thru.

Councilman Woerpel- It's not gonna be like a bucket coming down on a rope?

Council President Venecz- You don't have to whip it up there, although I'm sure somebody like you will give that a try.

Councilman Rakos- HC3 Hessville Commerce and Community Creative will be having their May clean up on Saturday, May 23rd at 9 o'clock. They'll meet at the HC3 building at 2823 Martha. All residents, students, and businesses are invited. There will be light breakfast snacks in the morning and then lunch provided for volunteers in the afternoon or around 11 o'clock. That's Saturday May 23rd, at 9 o'clock.

Councilwoman Alexander- Just a couple. The scholarship for the Hammond Common Council will be drawn on our next Council meeting. If any student did not get it into their Counselor, I'm going to give them until tomorrow because that's when I will be going by to pick them up to make sure they have an opportunity for our scholarship. Also I wanted to congratulate the Hammond Area Career Center. They're 8 students that had the opportunity to compete in the Skills USA tournament and they will be traveling to the national competition and they are of course asking for donations. A lot of those students that have met that goal are from Hammond Central and Morton, so congratulations and we hope that we have some National Champions come back for radio tv.

Councilman Kalwinski- The Hammond Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by the Hammond Mohawks will take place on Monday, Memorial Day. Line up begins at 10 a.m. near the roller dome and Cavalier Inn on Gostlin and steps off at 11 a.m. and then concludes at St. Casimir's Church with a Memorial Service and a flag raising and a prayer. Everybody is invited to attend the parade, or put a float in the parade, but most importantly, come to the Memorial Service because really that's what it's for that day.

Council President Venecz- Any other Communications? (X3) Communications is now closed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE- Councilman Spitale- Nothing to report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE- Councilman Tyler- The Economic Development Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, May 26, at 5:15 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE- Councilman Woerpel- brought out 26-13

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD - Councilman Salinas- The Capital Improvement Board met on May 4, and it was reported by our City Controller, Megan Moore that we have approximately \$5million in funding. We did 4 funding allocations, and new business and I will cover each one of them now.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

COMMITTEE REPORTS Cont.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD cont.

FUNDING ALLOCATION #319- 165TH- Kennedy to Grand Ave- Construction Engineering/First Group Engineering- in the amount of \$141,100.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #320- Memorial Park Utility and Lot Staking- American Structurepoint- in the amount of \$7,900.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #321- 2026 Crack Sealing Program- Site Services- in the amount of \$300,000.00

FUNDING ALLOCATION #322- Summer Street Lighting Repairs- Hawk Enterprises- in the amount of \$11,279.27

COMMUNITY AND CRIME WATCH COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Venecz - Upcoming meetings:

Mt. Zion Pleasantview Plaza; Wed., May 13; 1 p.m.
East Hammond Pullman Crime Watch; Tues. May 19; 6 p.m.; Ophelia Steen Center
Harrison Park Crime Watch; Tues. June 2; 6 p.m.; VFW on Hohman Ave.
Jefferson Crime Watch; Wed. May 27; 6 p.m.; Jefferson School
Hessville Crime Watch; Thur. May 21; 6 p.m.; HC3 Community Center
Irving Community Watch; Tues. May 12 ; 9:30 a.m.; Irving School
Whiting/Robertsdale Crime Watch; Thur. May 14; 6:30 p.m.; Calumet College

Council President Venecz-As always, I urge everyone to come out to a community or crime watch meeting. You can get a lot of really good information. Laurie in the front row there, just had a meeting last week I believe it was, and a lot of really good information and great questions by the residents in the neighborhood. Please come out and learn what's going on in your neighborhood and the city, because community if not just about me, it's about us.

Councilman Kalwinski- I'd like to just go back a second, because there will be another Economic Development Committee meeting for 26R-11, so I wanted to be sure that the Economic Development Committee was aware of that so that would be on at 5:15 p.m. on 6-8-26 and that's regarding 26R-11 which we will pass tonight, but it also will have a public hearing on 6-22 and between now and then, we're going to have a presentation by the developer for that project, at that Economic Development Committee meeting on 6-8-26 at 5:15 p.m.

Council President Venecz- When was the committee meeting?

Councilman Kalwinski- On 6-8-26 at 5:15 p.m.

Council President Venecz- Any other committee reports? (X3) Committee reports is now closed.

ORDINANCE THIRD READING - FINAL PASSAGE

26-13 An Ordinance Creating New Funds (Funds #3384, #3326, #3327, and #3343) for Municipal Food and Beverage Tax Monies

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved for final passage.

Councilman Woerpel- Back in June of 2024, we adopted and approved a 1% Food and Beverage Tax pursuant to Indiana Code 6958. At the request of the City Controller from a suggestion from the State Board of Accounts. We needed to separate that money into 4 separate accounts. Going by the funds that Clerk Golec read off, Fund 3384 was the Food and Beverage DSR-MM Account, Fund 3326 is the Food and Beverage Redemption Account, Fund 3327 is the Food and Beverage Rebate Fund, and Fund 3343 is the Food and Beverage Depository Fund. Again, this isn't anything new. This is to further put into accounts, the Food and Beverage Tax that we passed in June of 2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE (passage)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

ORDINANCE NO. 9709 PASSED

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

26-15 An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds in the Hotel/Motel Innkeepers Tax Fund for Economic Development Purposes in 2026

Councilman Spitale, supported by Councilman Salinas, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, with a public hearing on June 8, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd reading)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

26-16 An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana upon recommendation of the Hammond Economic Development Commission Designating a Certain Area within the City as an Economic Development Target Area pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-12.1

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Salinas, moved for 1st and 2nd reading by title, and be referred to Economic Development Committee on May 26, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.

Councilman Kalwinski- This is, we're in the process of ratifying this agreement and moving forward with a traditional 10 year tax abatement on the Boulevard in Robertsdale between 1719-1733 where a 3500 square foot Laundromat will be put up, as long as a 1000 square foot Dairy Belle with a drive-thru and a 1200 square foot commercial building on what has been vacant property on the Boulevard for a long time.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES Cont.

ROLL CALL VOTE (1st and 2nd reading)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

26R-10 A Resolution of the Hammond Common Council Ratifying the Development Agreement among the City of Hammond, Indiana, the City of Hammond Redevelopment Commission, and Midwest Prairie Builders LLC regarding 1719-33 Indianapolis Blvd., Hammond, Indiana

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for adoption.

Councilman Kalwinski- This is now the next step in the process in ratifying the agreement between Midwest Builders, The City of Hammond, and Redevelopment, and the Redevelopment Commission for the Dairy Belle, the Laundromat, and the 1200 square foot commercial building on the Boulevard.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R10 ADOPTED

26R-11 Resolution of the Hammond Common Council Approving a Declaratory Resolution related to Creation of an Economic Revitalization Area

Councilman Kalwinski, supported by Councilman Spitale, moved for adoption.

Councilman Kalwinski- This is another development in the 1st District between Boy Scout Road and Sheffield Avenue to the West of Sheffield Avenue. This is a \$20 million project on about 21 acres where RV and Boat storage will take place as well as buildings for self storage. While we're passing this tonight, we're going to conduct an Economic Development Committee meeting, 6-8-26 at 5:15 p.m. where the developer will present the project to the Council with pictures and answer questions at that time as well as holding a public hearing on this project on this project on 6-22-26 during the Council Meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE (adoption)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

RESOLUTION NO. R11 ADOPTED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Woerpel, supported by Councilwoman Alexander, moves to change the Council Meeting set for May 25, 2026 to May 26, 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE (change meeting)

AYES: Alexander, Spitale, Kalwinski, Salinas, Tyler, Emerson, Woerpel, Rakos, Venecz

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

9/0/0

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Woerpel- Over the past few years, Councilman Tyler and I have heard a lot of discussion about getting 167th Street repaved from Columbia Avenue to Indianapolis Boulevard and now that all the construction is finished, according to the Capital Improvement Board, it's my understanding that we're going to try to get it done this summer at some point and get it repaved from that distance there. Is that your understanding?

Councilman Tyler- Correct, and that the Sportsplex and the Y will stay within the 3rd District. I just wanted to provide an update on Harrison Park improvements. A lot of people ask about what's going on with the Lagoon. We've talked about it in previous meetings, but it is being expanded, both the width and the depth of the pond, so it will actually be able to maintain wildlife and then this week, they're adding a liner so that it can retain water as well. If you want to stop by and see the construction going on, I've told, Scott, correct me if I'm wrong, I'm told it will be about a month or so more of everything, because the liner will take a few days, and you'll have to fill it up with water. I'm not sure if we'll be able to stock it this year, but hopefully we'll be able to get fish in there next year. The second update is with the Man of Steel, for those that don't know, this is the 50th anniversary of when the Man of Steel was erected in Harrison Park and so as part of that we are improving upon it and planning a rededication. We're trying to match the color as close to the original color as possible. We had a representative from Sherwin Williams donate the paint to be able to take care of that job, so thank you to Sherwin Williams. I know you probably seen the Water Department out there along with some other volunteers doing some, trying to clean up the statue a bit before it got painted. As of right now that grey color you see is just the primer and then it will be painted sometime over the next few weeks, maybe a month or so and we'll be planning, like I said, a rededication ceremony and a ribbon cutting ceremony for the pond as well sometime later this summer. We will release more information on that when it gets done. I just wanted to thank Scott, you all, Mayor's Administration for being supportive of that project as well as the Park's department for partnering on that too. Thank you.

SPECIAL ZONING ACTION ADOPTED UNDER I.C. 36-7

None

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Munster High School Students- Came to see how Local Government works for a school project.

Mary Schoons- Voiced concerns about tax abatements within the city, and raising the Food and Beverage Tax

George Stoya- Voiced concerns about tax abatements within the city, the street traffic/parking problem from the new Dairy Belle, thinks the City should back out of the case with Mr. Fontanez in Federal Court.

*Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk*

Councilwoman Alexander, supported by Councilman Rakos, moved to adjourn.

AYES: ALL

2026 HAMMOND COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE RECORD OF
ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL PRESENCE

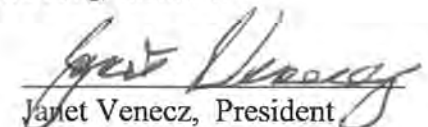
	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	12	26	9	23	9	23	13	27	11							
Katrina Alexander	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P							
Dan Spitale	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P							
Mark Kalwinski	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P							
Alfonso Salinas III	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P							
Barry Tyler	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P							
Bill Emerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P							
Scott Rakos	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P							
Dave Woerpel	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P							
Janet Venecz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P							
Initials	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG	RJG								

E=ELECTRONIC

P=PHYSICALLY
PRESENT

A=ABSENT

If the member qualifies for an exemption from the "Consecutive - 50" requirements, draw a circle around the E for that meeting/ member.


Janet Venecz, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

Time: 6:53 p.m.
mg

Prepared by
Robert J. Golec
Hammond City Clerk